



# City of Manitou Springs Newsletter

Vol. 5, No. 1

April 20, 2006

## Dear Manitou Springs' Citizens:

The TLC season is just about here for all of us who take pride in our community whether we are residential dwellers or business operators. Tender – loving – care means attractive window displays, clean sidewalks and hopefully some colorful plantings in pots to dress up our downtown look.



The city government will be doing its part as our staff readies our parks, medians, buildings and springs for local visitors and our out-of-state visitors.

Anyone who has visited downtown can't miss our streetscape and safety project that is occurring on one side of the 700 block. The south side will start in September, after Labor Day. Meanwhile, the block east of Pawnee will start to see construction in order to have the utilities buried and keep the costs down for our financial obligation.

Two other items to mention to everyone is the welcoming of our new Planning Director, Dan Folke. Please welcome him and introduce yourself when you are at City Hall. I know he is anxious to get acquainted with as many city residents and business owners to help as he transitions into his new position.

Please remember what a great community we live in and let us all appreciate the hillsides, our pretty parks and especially the diverse people that make our city so special.

Enjoy the Spring,  
**Mayor Marcy Morrison**

## Finance Department

# Downtown Plan – Phase 2

By Michael Leslie  
*Finance Director*

## First Quarter Sales Tax Performance

FY2005 finished with sales tax revenues 8.0 percent higher than those of FY2004 with taxable sales in FY2005 totaling \$47,944,943 compared to \$44,399,795 in FY2004. The City of Manitou Springs does not collect its own sales tax and relies on the Colorado Department of Revenue to collect our taxes from vendors. This results in a two-month lag between the time that taxable sales occur in the City and sales tax revenues are collected and forwarded to the City. As of the close of the first quarter of FY2006, the City has received revenues for sales occurring in the City during the month of January. January 2006 revenues came in at a rate 1.8 percent higher than those collected from sales occurring in January FY2005. Sales taxes comprise approximately 42 percent of the City's general fund revenue.

## Financial Closure of FY2005

The Finance Department officially closed FY2005 in our accounting system Feb. 28 to allow for any outstanding invoices and/or revenues to be accrued to FY2005. The Finance Department continues to prepare for audit, which involves submission of financial sampling to our auditors of February. Representatives from Jaspers + Hall, P.C., the City's auditor, have been in contact with Finance Department personnel collecting the data and records necessary

for the audit. It is anticipated that FY2005 financial statements will be presented to City Council at the first city council meeting in May.

A number of other required annual reports signify the end and closing of the financial year. The Finance Department completed applications for exemption from audit for the Manitou Springs Business Improvement District and the Manitou Springs Metropolitan District; Status of Conservation Trust Fund Reports for the City and the Manitou Springs Metropolitan District; and began compilation of the data required for completion of the FY2005 Federal Highways Report which is due in May.

FY2005 ended the fiscal management relationship between the City of Manitou Springs and the Manitou Springs Business Improvement District (MSBID). The MSBID utilized City financial services and the City's pooled cash assets on its formation so that it was able to begin operations without having to wait for its revenue stream to catch up. The MSBID is now an entirely independent financial entity.

## Downtown Revitalization Project

The Downtown Revitalization Project is a multi-year phased project, which consists of pedestrian, ADA access, roadway, drainage, street lighting and landscape improvements as well as the under-grounding of overhead utilities to the downtown area of Manitou Avenue. The project is

**See FINANCE/page 16**



## Cat in the Hat

Library Director Jan Pratt, played Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat, at the Library's "Read Across America" celebration which honored Dr. Seuss' 101 Birthday. See story, page 15.

## Police Department

# Methamphetamine labs – a reality in Manitou Springs

By MaryJo Smith  
Police Chief

Manitou Springs Police Department continues to have a great working relationship with School District 14. That relationship was put to the test March 9 when officers from the El Paso County S.W.A.T. team executed a warrant at 115 Pawnee Avenue Apt. #1. One adult male was taken into custody and a methamphetamine lab was located inside of the residence. Metro Vice and Narcotics

## Manitou Springs Public Pool New weight room

By Jacqueline Clark  
Aquatics Director

WOW, WOW, WOW! 2006 has started out with a bang at the Manitou Springs Aquatic Center. Where did these months go?

The weight room at the pool has been very successful as well as the pool and swim lessons. A huge thank you goes out to all the staff and all the people that support the pool on this adventure. Without all of you, the pool wouldn't be what it is today!

Some of the highlights so far this year have been getting all the cracks on the bottom and sides of the pool filled in with an underwater filler. This process has been very successful in lowering the gas usage and the water usage and as a result has lowered both bills significantly. The new doors and panic hardware has been ordered and were put in April 6-14.

Summer is looking great! The outdoor pool is scheduled to open May 23 for the summer. Make sure you mark that date on your calendar. This is a great opportunity to bring the children in and a time to relax and catch some rays for you. This is a win, win choice.

The Special Olympic Swimming Team has started their swim season at the Manitou Springs Pool every Wednesday night from 6:30-8 p.m. for the next 10 weeks. This is a great opportunity if you are interested in volunteering to help with a special event.

### Jan. 2006- March 2006:

#### Punch card sales:

- 245 punch cards - This includes both residents and non residents

#### Memberships sales:

- 17 memberships - This includes both residents and non residents

#### Weight room memberships:

- 7 weight room memberships

#### Weight Room Punch cards:

- 20 weight room punch cards - This includes residents and non residents

The weight training classes have been very successful, they have been filled every session. Shake up your exercise routine – join the Manitou Springs Aquatic Center.

Take advantage of everything Manitou Springs has to offer right in your back yard. It is never too late to get fit for the summer.

Units entered the residence and began processing the lab. A warrant has been issued for the female that was inside of the residence. She was taken to the hospital for medical reasons when the warrant was executed.

Roy Crawford, Superintendent of School District 14, was notified about the lab and dangers that could surround this area. Mr. Crawford and I discussed the situation, and a decision was made to close Manitou Springs Elementary School for the day. This decision was based on the close proximity of the lab to the front doors of the school (97 feet).

I want to thank all of the teachers, staff, parents and students for their assistance, support and understanding during this investigation.

### Would you know how to identify a meth lab?

Citizens can and should play a significant role in the battle to counteract the rise in meth labs. Labs can be portable and found in homes, apartments, motel rooms, and vehicles, even in backpacks. If you see a clear container with liquid that is visibly separating, it could be a part of the meth process. If you see a person purchasing large quantities of matches (cases) or large quantities of pseudoephedrine, they may be getting prepared to manufacture methamphetamine.

Signs that there may be a meth lab in your neighborhood include:

Unusual amounts of glass containers; jars or cookware being brought in, or thrown away; cat

litter bags or other non-opaque bags with duct tape around them being thrown out; people smoking outside of the home; especially at night; unusual strong odors like paint, ether, ammonia, alcohol or acetone; excessive trash, or no trash at the curb at all; large amounts of items such as antifreeze containers; fuel cans, batteries, drain cleaner, large quantities of cold medication, red-stained coffee filters, plastic tubing, or duct tape; and efforts to camouflage or conceal windows.

If you see a lot of traffic at a particular residence, especially at odd hours, you need to



The scene at 115 Pawnee at approximately 6:30 a.m. March 9 as apartment number one was raided for containing an alleged methamphetamine lab, as seen from the second floor of Manitou Springs Elementary School.

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## Fire Department

## Manitou Fire Forum

By Keith Buckmiller  
Fire Chief

Greetings and welcome to Spring 2006. Normally I would be reminding you to change the batteries in your smoke detector when you change your clock to daylight savings, but not this time. This year we want you to throw it away and replace it with a FREE smoke detector instead. With funds Deputy Chief John Forsett was able to save from a federal grant, we were able to purchase 3,500 smoke detectors. This equates to a smoke detector on every floor in every house. Without a doubt, smoke detectors save lives. Just last year a sounding smoke detector alerted a second grader to evacuate his sister and himself out of a home that

was on fire. But as stated in previous Forums, smoke detectors have a shelf life of 10 years.

See FIRE DEPARTMENT/page 16



Keith Buckmiller (left), Manitou Springs fire chief, and Jordan Barnett, Boy Scout Troop 18, pose with some of the 3,000 smoke detectors that will be installed for free in Manitou Springs residents' homes starting April 1. Barnett initiated the program as his Eagle Scout project.

## Public Library

## A lot of reading going on

By Jan Pratt

Library Director

The Manitou Springs Public Library has been busy during the first quarter of 2006. During this time, the library hosted an exciting night of Valentines Fun, "A taste of Manitou" where folks sampled treats from the local restaurants: Stagecoach Inn Restaurant, Pikes Peak Chocolate Company, Cliff House, Mona Lisa Fondue Restaurant, Keg Lounge, Townhouse Lounge, Marilyn's Pizza House, Goldminer's Nuts and Candy, the Blue Vervain Restaurant and the Loop Restaurant, while listening to blues music provided by Marvin Berkman and visiting with the author of "The Art of Spark," Mary Zalmanek. These types of adult programs are offered monthly on the second Tuesday of the month.

The Library also hosted a "Read Across America" celebration in March in honor of Dr. Seuss's 101 Birthday. Families were able to participate in crafts, listen to Dr. Seuss stories and celebrate with birthday cake. All children that attended received a free book!

Continuing to meet are the "Between the Covers" Book Club on the first Wednesday of the month; Socrates Café – open philosophical discussion of topics picked by the group on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, and preschool story time meeting on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. All programs at the library are free and open to all who would like to attend.



The kids enjoyed Dr. Seuss stories and picked out a free book at the library's "Read Across America."

The library also would like to invite the community to check out our new website at [www.manitouspringslibrary.org](http://www.manitouspringslibrary.org). At this new site you can keep up to date on programs, new books and DVD's just in at the library, in addition to other useful information about the Manitou Springs community. This website also highlights our new logo which is being used on our newly designed

library cards. Stop in the library during April to exchange your old card for this fresh new design!

The Friends of the Library continue to push forward on the library expansion project. We are proud to announce that they have received funding from the Gay and Lesbian Foundation, in addition to sponsorship from Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Starbucks and Joe's Crab Shack.

## Historic Preservation Commission

## State of our town's historic preservation

By Charlie Case

Historic Preservation Commission Chair

We are well past the first day of spring. As a result, some of us turn our quiet-time thinking to cleaning up the yard, trimming back last year's rose bushes, and finally doing something about that peeling paint on the sunny-side of the house. And, did I mention taking down the storm windows and putting up the screens? Oh, the joys of owning an old house in Manitou!

Actually, it is a joy. That's why we live here. Owning a home, or just living in a town with a sense of place, well founded in history, makes us all feel special.

Preserving what makes us special reinforces who we are. And, great things are happening! The Downtown Improvement Project is beginning to transform our town's heart from that of a four-lane road designed for speeding folks through and out of town to a pedestrian-friendly green zone inviting folks to stay. Completion of the Historic Plaque project illustrates details of our history for everyone to see as we walk through town. The "sleeping giant," the Manitou Spa is finally on its way to renewal, providing downtown homes and specialty retail, a wonderful reuse

of one of our key historic resources.

Your Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has reviewed and approved well over a dozen projects this year reinforcing, repairing, and improving our historic buildings and their environs. HPC's newest project will assess the condition and begin restoration of our historic stone bridges and creek walls while there is still time to save them.

This year I discovered in a very personal way that historic preservation pays off. I replaced some contemporary windows with historic bay windows and restored the front porch on my 120 year-old home. As a result, I received a \$4,000 state tax credit that I can roll-over each year until it is used. I was happy to find that there are many financial benefits as well as personal satisfaction available to folks restoring buildings within the Historic District. Visit the City Planning Department staff for details of these incentive programs before starting your project.

For Historic Preservation Month this May we are celebrating our town's successes in many exciting ways. The HPC is throwing a party and giving heart-felt awards to folks who have completed preservation projects this

past year. We will also honor this year's Preservation Pioneer, a special individual who has significantly contributed to our place in history through preservation efforts for many, many years. The HPC is also contributing books on repair and preservation techniques to the Manitou Library's growing collection of "how to" resources. The HPC will sponsor a free workshop on painting techniques for historic homes. A beautiful photographic exhibit of our stone bridges, with a comparison of today's views with historic photos of the same bridges, is planned for the Pocket Museum at the Business of Art Center. Photos will be available for sale to help fund the repairs of these same historic bridges. Next month's special activities, dates, and places are listed below. It promises to be an exciting time. We'll see you there!

Schedule of Preservation Month Activities

"Bridges in Time – Manitou Spring's Historic Bridges" Photography Display May 1

Display at City Hall open during Regular Business Hours (all month)

Donation to the Library's "Preservation Reference Shelf" May 1

Manitou Springs Library – 3 p.m. Proclamation of May as

"Preservation Month" May 2

City Council Meeting – 7 p.m.

Preservation Honor and Preservation Pioneer Awards Reception May 11

Manitou Outpost, 809 Manitou Ave. (by invitation) – 6:30-8:30 p.m.

"Bridges in Time – Manitou Spring's Historic Bridges" Photography Show May 18

Through end of July at the BAC's Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave.

(Proceeds to benefit HPC's stone bridges restoration project)

"Bridges in Time" Reception May 26

At the BAC's Venue 515, 515 Manitou Avenue – 5-7 p.m.

Painting Workshop in June

Professional painting contractor Josh Copeland-Welp with Sherwin-Williams will conduct a FREE Painting Workshop June 3 from 1-3 p.m. offering specifications for preparation and product use for older buildings. The workshop will start with a short walking tour of local painting projects illustrating some of the issues to be covered.

Please call 685-9497 for location and reservations.

## POLICE/ *from page 14*

contact the police department. You can call and report it on the non-emergency line 685-5407 and you can remain anonymous. You may also call Crime Stoppers at 636-STOP.

### Identity Theft

How does identity theft and methamphetamine tie together? Meth is a powerfully intense stimulant that creates a euphoric and energetic feeling. It releases high levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine, which stimulates brain cells enhancing mood and body movement. Meth is highly addictive

and users may have up to a \$200 per day need for this drug. Many users are not employed, and have to find other means to pay for their drug, or to purchase equipment to make more.

Some users of meth will steal mail, and use your personal information to forge checks so that they can purchase equipment to make more methamphetamine, pay their rent, or their own bills.

If you have a street side mailbox, do not mail bills from your mailbox, and put up the red flag for the postman. This alerts criminals to steal your mail,

and get your personal information. If you are mailing bills, take them to a mailbox, or to the Post Office. If you see someone in a neighbor's mailbox, report it to the police department immediately. If they have a vehicle, jot down the license plate number and description of the vehicle and the suspect. If someone steals your identity it can take months, even years to clear up the situation.

Make sure you shred all bank statements, credit card statements, even receipts where you sign your signature.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT/ *from page 14*

Not knowing the age of your smoke detector causes us great apprehension. Not knowing if your home has a detector or not causes even more. The purchase of these detectors allows us to address the age concern, but does not provide you or us with any security that there is one in your home: security for you in the ability to evacuate from your home while the fire is still in the early stage, and the security that the fire department will have a quicker report of fire conditions and be able to respond before the fire conditions get out of hand.

Coincidentally, while we were contemplating how to get every home updated, Jordan Barnett was trying to identify a community project for his Eagle Scout. He contacted your fire department and offered himself as a resource. His offer was immediately accepted and we challenged him to build a mechanism to contact the public, distribute and install a smoke detector on every floor of every home in Manitou Springs. He accepted the challenge and over the last two months he and other members of Boy Scout

Troop 18 established a call-in phone number and distributed flyers to inform you about this free, very beneficial program, and spent two weekends installing smoke detectors in our community. He fulfilled his part of the agreement last week and has turned the process over to the fire department to continue the work.

Many homes have been updated and now have a state of the art, brand-spanking new detector on every floor. Unfortunately, some homes have not been contacted. To continue the process we are asking for your help. Your part is the simplest, but most important. Please call 685-2558 to have your home scheduled for delivery and installation. The smoke detectors are FREE!

In other news, your brush engine along with Ashley Brooks, Brad Dorris and Brandi Dorris went to Kansas the last week of March. This was our second Federal deployment of the year. The first was in the southwest portion of Colorado to fight wildfire in the Alamosa area. This is an early entry into the wildfire season and one that is creating a bit of worry. We have

to prevent, prepare and respond to grassland and urban interface fire incidents.

On the prevention side, Brad Dorris and your other firefighters are mitigating some fuels from the Deer Valley Park. They are creating a demonstration ground for FireWise®. Upon completion, every homeowner will be able to see how they can trim their vegetation back and still have a beautiful yard. And while on the subject of prevention, Captain Randy Perkins and Paramedic Larry Mitchell have purchased a robot vehicle and manikin to teach our children the message of fire danger. The robot vehicle is controlled from a remote position and can both talk and listen. This will prove to be instrumental in getting our message out during our October open house and other demonstrations throughout the year. These actions will help you prevent an emergency situation.

On the preparation phase, Firefighter Mike Dutil has been conducting evening classes for area firefighters to prepare them for Red Card Certification. This certification

is a requirement for all personnel working on a major wildland fire. Our neighbors in Cascade and Crystal Park have been attending the classes to prepare themselves as well. These actions will help us prepare to be at our best for an emergency situation.

Personnel preparation is half the equation with the other half being the equipment. On the response side, presently Captain Perkins is awaiting the return of three bid proposals for a water tender. A water tender is a 2,000-gallon tanker on wheels. Its intent is to shuttle water to the fire engines which are working far distances from a water source. The water tender will also be placed on the national resource board for deployment as well as made available for local use under mutual aid agreements. Delivery of the water tender is anticipated in August 2006. The water tender coupled with the Type 1 Fire Engine and Type 6 Brush Engine will help us respond to emergency situations with the most applicable piece of firefighting equipment.

## FINANCE/ *from page 13*

phased from 2005 to 2010 using Federal Transportation funding and local match funding. The City completed the first phase of the project, the Shoshone Spring Demonstration Project in FY2005. Phase 2 of the Downtown Revitalization Project consists of the area of Manitou Avenue east of Canon Avenue to Pawnee Avenue.

In the month of January, the Finance Department assembled and submitted the material required by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the local agency final billing for phase 1 and phase 2 design of the Downtown Revitalization Project. The City expects \$274,157 reimbursement for the \$342,697 Shoshone Spring Demonstration Project and \$95,622 reimbursement for the \$119,614 design cost of the phase 2 design project. Reimbursements will be posted in the Downtown Public Facilities Fund for FY2005.

As the year began, the City awaited notification from CDOT of clearance to begin the construction process of Phase 2 of our Manitou Avenue Revitalization Project. The City had hoped to begin construction of Phase 2 Jan. 2 in order to finish

construction by Memorial Day. On Jan. 27, the Finance Department received notification of CDOT concurrence to advertise for construction proposals for Phase 2 of the Downtown Revitalization Project. A bid-package plan set and project manual was assembled and the project went to advertisement Feb. 2. The City did obtain CDOT permission to shorten the mandatory three week advertising period to two weeks with a bid opening Feb. 16. The City convened a mandatory pre-bid conference on Feb. 10 and noting that only one construction company attended, re-extended the bid period to Feb. 21. On March 21 the City received construction bids from AA Construction Company Inc., who bid \$758,098, and Kiewitt Western Company, who bid \$819,651. The original engineers estimate for the project was \$719,000.

On March 2, the City received CDOT concurrence to award the construction of Phase 2 of the Manitou Avenue Revitalization Project to AA Construction Company Incorporated and Notice of Award was given to AA Construction Company, Inc. March 3. A pre-construction conference was

conducted March 6. During the pre-construction conference it was determined that the Phase 2 Project could not be completed within the contract time and the project was broken into two sub-phases, 2a and 2b. Sub-phase 2a would include improvements to the north side of Manitou Avenue from immediately east of Canon Avenue to Pawnee Avenue, to be completed by Memorial Day. On the south side of Manitou Avenue work would resume after Labor Day and would conclude before Thanksgiving. In the interim, it was proposed that AA Construction Company, Inc. would construct Phase 1 of the PPRTA Capital Improvements Manitou Avenue Project, which consists of improvements similar to those of the Downtown Revitalization Project in the 600 block of Manitou Avenue. Excavation for the Phase 2 Project began March 10, with the concentration on installing drainage facilities on the north side of Manitou Avenue. Subterranean greenstone was found during the excavation and four truckloads have been salvaged and reclaimed by the City.